

Ms. Yvette Fox,

In response to the request for data supporting an appropriate ratio to determine nursing home bed need, I would like to share with you a few of Kadlec Medical Center's issues. We don't have a consistent problem with getting an age 65 or older person admitted to a nursing home in the Tri-Cities area of Washington. The focus for us is getting the complex patient, no matter the age, into a nursing home bed.

The issue of not being able to get people admitted to a nursing home has more to do with the following:

- Complex patients – those needing parental nutrition (TPN), IV antibiotics, complex wound care, dialysis, etc.
- Patients that have tracheostomies and need care of the trach; patients needing continued ventilator support
- Patients with behavioral or psychiatric problems, needing physical or medical restraints
- Patients needing custodial care but have no financial means to pay for that care

Often there is a bed available at the nursing home, they are just unable to provide the level of care needed by the patient.

Thank you,

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